S

## The "Talents."

The loneliest thing in the world is a young man at a 5-o'clock tea. Robinson rusoe on his solitary island was totally unacquainted with the feeling of utter desolation that everpowers such a visitor. It is true that Clarissa was there-in fact Clarissa had insisted that I should accompany her, and, as we had been engaged to be married just one week. I thought it best to comply with her wishes.

I discovered before long that Clarissa had a great many friends, I was introduced to them all, and found them-wellvery satisfactory-there were no men among them-but their conversation was most singular. I did not understand it, it was so Biblical.

"Clarissa," I said on my way home, "what do your friends mean by "Talents?" " She looked at me with astonishment, and answered:

"Thomas Peabody, where have you lived all your life?" "In outer darkness, until a week ago, my darling."

"You poor dear," said Clarissa, with one of her beautiful smiles, "you must come with me to the meeting at Sarah Allen's, and you will learn all about them." "Fut," I answered feebly-desperately-

gladly, "I-I have an engagement." "Break it," said Clarissa, cheerfully. "Break an engagement?" I answered,

"Yes, why not?" replied Clarissa, indiffer-

I did not like to say too much, but as gently as possible explained to her the sacredness of one's word and the absolute impossibility of breaking it. She listened attentively. She was evidently impressed by the importance of the subject!

"The meeting is at 4 o'clock; you may call for me fifteen minutes earlier." "But, Clarissa," I remonstrated.

"Thoma Peabody, I hope you are not lifish. Surely the support of the orphans is of more importance than your foolish engagements." I did not quite understand how the support of the orphan and the keeping of an engagement were antagonistic, but as a sor ewill emphatic statement of mine to this effect was received with a burst of tears, I thought it the part of wisdom to arrange my business so that I might be introduced the next afternoon to the mysterious "Talents."

I am a college man, and I was distinguished for scholarship-but I have come away from the meeting of the "Young Ladies' Auxiliary Committee" in a most humble frame of mind. It was certainly a great shock to me to find this society of young women grappling with a subject that was perfectly incomprehensible to me. Clarissa is laboring with the most exemplary patience to make me understand it: her enthusiasm is beautiful, and she has a delightful way of teaching. I have no doubt but that she is employing upon me the most advanced methods of instruction, from the kindergarten up. I could listen to

"Clarissa, you will have to say it all over again, very slowly." It was-the extreme of luxury-a comfortable rocking chair, a shady porch, and Clarissa with her sweet voice murmuring her instruction in my ear. "Now, Thomas, do try to understand me

"I shall do my best." "We each had a five-cent piece given to us that is the Talent." 'I never knew the value of one before,' answered in the most comprehending

"Thomas, you are hopeless,"
"I thought I was beginning to see daylight," I said, meekly.

Mary Brice boug...t a half-dozen of lead pencils with her talent, Sarah Allen bought yard of cheese cloth, Nellie Peters a pound of sugar, Ida Waters a pound of Eliza Brown a sheet of Bristol board, Margaret-"What did you buy?" I interrupted, afraid that the list was without end. With a rretty blush and a conscious little laugh she answered, "I bought two cigars for 5 cents."

"What-two for 5 cents!"
"Is it too much?" she faltered. "Oh, no, no! What are you going to do "I thought that perhaps you would buy ne for 5 cents and that John Popham would buy the other. In that way I would

double my talent." "I will take both," I answered promptly, for if there was anybody in the world detested it was John Popham. He is a sort of far-out cousin of Clarissa's, and presumes on this attenuated relationship to keep dangling around her and paying her all sorts of unnecessary attentions. I find him a thoroughly uninteresting young

Clarissa seemed very much pleased when I handed her the 10 cents, and immediately began to consider what new investment could be made with the money. "I would not buy any more cigars," I suggested.

"Why?" said Clarissa, with a look of attention. "You are leading young men into temptation, especially me-for, of course, I shall buy all the cigars that you purchase, and shall thus eventually become an inveterate smoker. You see it is positively immoral." "Oh, Thomas," she cried in distress, "I never thought of that." I knew that Clarissa was very conscien-

"Please, please do not smoke the two cigars that you have just bought of me." I allowed myself to be persuaded. "I have made you waste your money," she added, contritely.

Clearly the whole subject was incompre-In a few minutes Clarissa recovered her spirits and announced that she would buy two papers of pins with the money. "I will grudge to pay a cent, and my 'talent' will increase tenfold. Oh, Thomas, it was an inspiration to think of the pins." "Clarissa, you ought to be on Wall street; you would make another Jay Gould

"Thomas, I do not think you are trying to learn." I fancied her manner a little Thereupon the lesson closed, and Clarissa decided that she must purchase the pins immediately so as to lose no time. "You

know Mary Brice will sell each lead pencil for 5 cents, and Sarah Allen will make dust caps out of her cheese cloth and get ever so tauch money for them, and Kate Peters will nake candy out of her sugar, and Ida Waters will bake cakes-the boys will be sur to buy them, you know men are so fond of eating-Eliza Brown will make picture frames and paint them, Mar-

I really could stand this no longer, so once more I interrupted her to ask what would be done with all the money. Clarissa seemed surprised at the question, and answered: "Thomas, I did not know before that you were so dull of comprehension; now listen once more." Then raising her voice and speaking very slowly, as though I was deaf, she said: "We shall reinvest the money and keep on increasing our talents for a month. As soon as I sell my pins I shall use the money to buy some-thing else, and then I shall sell that, and so on for a month."

"More pins," I murmurred: "surely nothing else could be so profitable."

The pressure of business prevented my seeing Clarissa during the week that fol-lowed, but at the end of that time I found my dear Clarissa triumphantly happy; all the pins had been sold and the "talent" had increased to goodly proportions. "Thomas, it was such a help to me for you to have taken half the pins; it only eft me one paper to sell." "Now, I suppose every girl of your acthe remainder of her natural life."

"Clarisen laughed in the most amused way. "Girls! They would never pay such a price for pins. Besides it is only mer. who need pins."

"Clarissa," I gasped, "surely you never obliged men to buy those pins."

She seemed a little offended, and answered with dignity: "I did not oblige anytody to buy anything. As soon as my friends heard that I had pins for sale they came after them. I was never before so much entertained. John Popham bought

about half a paper, and would you believe it, he bought them one at a time; it took him fully six nights to complete the purchase. It was the same with Sam Jackson and some of the other boys."

I could not help groaning inwardly at folly in not buying both papers. I kson is a most objectionable young man. larissa remained for some time in deep ugut, and then suddenly brightening, ex-

"Thomas, I think your suggestion about the pins a very good one. I shall invest the talent in more pins!" "Clarissa," I exclaimed in horror, "you are surely not going to ask the same persons to buy more plas."
"Oh, no; I shall ask a new set of young

To say that I totally disapproved of this social sale of pins feebly describes my mental state, but I knew that it would never do to let Clarissa suspect my objections, so in my most careless manner I seed. "The plan is a good one, only it has the fatal lack of originality."

something different each time. Thomas, try and think of something nice for me. In a short time she lost her air of de-spondence and exclaimed: "I have the very thing-it will be perfectly splendid-salted almonds. I shall buy the almonds immediately, salt them, and send out invitations, and sell them at 5 cents a spoonful. It will be better fun even than selling pins." "Clarissa," I said, admiringly—I was equal to the occasion this time—"you certainly should have been a stock broker; your plan is admirable. I promise to buy "Oh, Thomas," with an ecstatic squeeze of my arm, "you are so good. But are you sure that you like salted almonds, and

that you are not buying them just to please I boldly declared that salted almonds were my favorite article of diet, After the almonds were salted and duly purchased, the "talent" had still further increased so much that Clarissa was very much concerned as to the proper invest-

ment of the money.

"Do you think doylies would do?" "What are doylies?" "It would take me fully two weeks to mbroider them," she continued, without paying any attention to my remark.

I thought they sounded eminently safe. so I strongly encouraged the idea. It would be impossible for young men to consume embroidered doylies.

A delightful and peaceful week followed.

Clarissa embroidered industriously and I read to her or talked to her. Neither John Popham nor Sam Jackson thought there was much fun in doylies, so they did not make their appearance. I found the doylies entirely satisfactory, and regretted when they were finished And now I must tell of poor Clarissa's first financial reverse. She had not sufficiently studied the law of supply and de-mand, and as all the other girls had also embroidered doylies the market was flood-ed, and it was impossible to sell the doylies at any advance. She was in despair. "Thomas, do you think I could have 'bargain counter;' you know people al-

prices of your doylies?" "Then I am afraid it is too late. They must have the appearance of being reduced in price or else people will not buy them.' "I have still four dozen to finish. "Perhaps they will help you to balance hings. Finish them before you offer any

"Have you already made known the

they want the things or not."

Clarissa was so dispirited that she lost all heart, and when the remaining doylies were completed they were much inferior to the first ones. Even to my uninitiated eyes the difference was very evident. Clarissa was reduced to the very lowest depths of mysery. I did my best to comfort her and between us we concocted a schedule of prices for her "Bargain Counter."
"Those that you have already offered for \$1.50 per dozen you must mark down to

"Oh, Thomas," said Clarissa, with tears But I was firm.

"It is the proper way to do business. You must make up on the new ones." So we prepared a set of labels for the first lot as follows: "75 cents per dozen; real value \$1.50," and the next lot we labeled at "\$2 per dozen; real value \$5. Thomas, my dear, that price is extor-

"Unless you sell them for that you will not come out square. Now, send out your invitations for 'A Grand Sale of Doylies at Greatly Reduced Prices,' keep your own counsel, and you will come out without 'Thomas, do you think that it seems wrong to do this, to overcharge people so

"My dear, you will only be working on strict business principles. Your profits will not equal those of either the cigars or the

"Of course, you know what is right, Thomas," she said, resignedly. Owing to these vigorous methods the doylies were easily disposed of, and Clarissa came out of the difficulty not only without loss but with a slight surplus, "It is better than nothing," said Clarissa, whose spirits had again risen. "It would have been too cruel to have lost anything on my talent: but I do not know whether it, was quite right to charge so much for

"I notice that you have a very tender conscience, Carissa; but how long is this thing to keep up-forever?" "Oh, no; we have a committee meeting at the end of the month, and each of us girls will make a report of how much her talent has gained. I must think of something extraordinarily good this time to make up for the doylies. It is getting difficult to sell things. People say that they have already bought so much, and that times are hard. Some of the other girls are having a dreadful time disposing of their things. There is poor Eliza Brown, who spent days and days painting her photograph frames, and she has scarcely sold any of them. They are exquisite, too, and the price is so reasonable, but people will not buy them. She is utterly disheartened. What shall

buy next? Do try and think of something nice for me. Although the doylies had been so eminently safe. I knew there would be no use in my suggesting anything similar, for Clarissa was determined to make her last investment yield a large profit. "Thomas, how do you think matches

would do? I could invest all my money in boxes of matches and then sell each match for-"Five dollars? Capital!" "Thomas, that would be extortion. For 1 cent; you do not think that would be too "Not at all; in fact, it is so cheap that I will buy them all from you. They will be

very useful to me.' 'Thomas, you are so good to be interested in the work, but are you sure that you really need the matches? 'Quite as much as I needed either pins or salted almonds." 'How nice!

"They shall be kept until we go to house keeping," I said. The only answer was a charming blush. As I knew the final meeting of the Young Ladies' Auxiliary Society was still some days off I was very careful that the purchase and transfer of the matches should occupy all of the intervening time. Others beside John Popham can buy pins one at a time.

shall sell each p'n for one cent. No one The sum realized by the sale of the matches was very satisfactory to Clarissa, although it was perfectly appalling to me. I congratulated myself that there was no time to make another investment prior to the meeting. There was no knowing what Clarissa might think of—bushels of pop-corn, or bags of oats, or something else of that nature would be sure to present themselves to her fertile brain. To keep up with this arithmetical procession I would need a gold mine. As a matter of course I was obliged to attend the final meeting of the Young Ladies' Auxiliary Society. It proved to be of a social as well as of a business character,

ending with a dance and supper.

Clarissa was in the highest spirits. Her "talent" had increased far and away beyond those of the other girls, although they had apparently worked like galley slaves during the past month. Their great difficulty had been in finding purchasers for their goods. One young lady plaintively said that all her friends bought the first set of things that she offered for sale, and then seemed surprised when she asked them a second time, and they positively refused

the third. I did not pursue this line of conversation any further, because I found Clarissa to be most disturbing. She does not seem to realize the importance of her engagement to marry me. She rgrets in her pretty way that I do not dance, and before I have time to utter a word she is whirling away with John Popham. Really, the relation-ship of cousin should be abolished by law. I do not think I ever spent a more disagreeable evening, and Clarissa said in her

most engaging way: "Didn't we have a good time, Thomas, and all for the benefit of the orphans."
"I did not know that John Popham, and Sam Jackson, and all the other fellows were orthans.

"Thomas, what do you mean?" "Isn't that what you mean?" "Thomas, I think you are becoming silly, mean the poor children in the Bond-street Church Orphanage. It is to help them that we have all been working so hard the last month to increase our 'talents.' There are 250 orphans in the asylum, and the

treasury is almost empty."
"Why do you not make known this fact to the congregation?" "We do, but that makes no difference." "Do you mean to tell me that you have 250 orphans and nothing in the treasury for their support, and that people will not contribute money to keep these poor children from starving?" I said, indignantly. "Of course they contribute. That is just why we have had our 'Talent' to increase. I am sure my friends have been very generous," said Clarissa, placidly.
"But, Clarissa, I do not understand why people do not give the money directly for the support of the orphans, instead of re-

quiring in return for it doylies, or aprons, or handkerchief cases, or picture frames, "Of course you don't understand. Men "Clarissa, there ought to be an immediate

appeal made to people for these poor children. They should not be allowed to starve. I am sure money will be contributed." "Certainly it will. It is for this reason that we propose to have in the fall a grand bazaar for the sale of fancy articles. The Young Ladies' Auxiliary Society will have a table. That is why we had to work so hard over the "Talents' to raise money to buy things for our table."

FOR FEMININE TASTE.

Matters Domestic and Aesthetic of Which Women Like to Read. The great success of fine cookery of all kinds consists in the delicate and careful use of seasonings, in the mingling of tastes well joined. A generation ago almost the only flavoring known to temperance people in sweet cookery were vanilla, lemon, nutmeg, bitter almonds and cinnamon. To-day, says a writer on cookery, there are many dainty new flavorings and the coarser spices are little used in delicate cookery, but are reserved for rich puddings and for savory dishes of meats and other places where they more properly belong. The juice of various fruits, coffee and tea and caramel have been added in the last dozen years to our list of flavors. Vanilla remains in use, as it has been for over a hundred years, but there is considerable doubt if the vanilla trade of today is quite equal to the genuine bean of that tropical parasite from which our grandmothers made their flavoring. A great deal of the vanilla of trade is made from the coarse tonka bean.

Even those dainty custards which were flavored with fresh peach leaves had a certain delicacy which we miss from the custard flavored with bitter almond extract. It may be a comfort to those who use the bitter almond extract that physicians have quite generally condemned the peach leaf on account of the presence of prussic acid in the green leaf. This acid, however, is so very, very volatile, and so easily expelled by a slight heat, that it seems impossible that any danger ways buy at 'bargain counters' whether may lurk in peach leaves that have been thoroughly boiled. The root from which tapioca is made is so much more heavily impregnated with prussic acid that ten drops will kill an able-bodied man in twenty-six minutes, and it is actually used as a means of public execution by some Indians of South America. Tapioca is only the pulp of the root from which this dead-ly juice is squeezed out by the hand. Even the poisonous juice itself is saved and boiled when the prussic acid is expelled, and from this juice is made the popular beer of the country. Yet no one doubts that tapioca is one of the most wholesome substances in use in our kitchens.

Lemon flavoring is not so much used now as it once was. There is always something of popular fancy in this matter, and lemon is just out of fashion, though it will always remain a delicious and refreshing flavor for ice-creams and cold desserts. It is not often used in hot desserts in this country. The best lemon flavoring is that made from bits of the yellow peel boiled in milk. A good lemon essence may be found in the market, but, like vanilla essence, must be of the best kind, and it must be confessed that the essences are easier to use than A flavoring of coffee is one of the most

delicious of the new flavorings. It may be used in custards, ice creams, the icing of cake, and in many other cold desserts, A charlotte russe flavored with coffee is especially nice. To flavor a quart of cus-tard take two heaping tablespoonfuls of Mocha coffee, ground quite fine and measured after grinding. If possible, the coffee should have been browned and ground the day it is used. Pour the quart of milk of which the custard is to be made boiling hot over the coffee, beat the whole thor-oughly for two or three minutes over the fire. Then remove it from the stove, cover it and let it stand where it will gradually cool and the flavoring of the coffee will be infused through the milk. Then strain it. This gives a very delicate delicious flavor of coffee, and is strong enough to flavor a quart of ice-cream, in which case a mixture of half cream and half milk must be poured over the coffee. To make a coffee essence for flavoring icings and other dishes that cannot be flavored by infusion, take two heaping tablespoonfuls of good Mocha coffee, ground and roasted fresh. Pour over it a cup of cold water. Let it reduce over the fire until there remain but four tablespoonfuls, when it is strained. Use about one tablespoonful of this to flavor the icing of one good-sized cake, or a teaspoonful if you like the flavor very

Perfection in Dress.

New York Tribune. To be well dressed nowadays a woman must carry out the idea of her costume in its entirety-petticoat, stockings and some part of the gown should all match. All this detail obviously requires both time and money, and it is no easy matter for a woman to live up to the modern standard in gowning herself, not one woman in a hundred being really well turned out from top to toe.

Feet remain forever young-looking as a rule, and a woman of sixty may have as dainty a looking foot and ankle as a girl of twenty. "Muffle up at the throat and shorten at the ankle," is, they say, one of Mme. Recamier's maxims for aging beauties; for while the feet are still youthfully pretty the throat is apt to show unmistakable signs of the ravages of time. The fashion of the high stocks of velvet or satin, showing no line of white about the throat, is immensely trying to women who are past their prime, for they accentuate every wrinkle of the throat and "show off" girls in the twenties even who have throats sufficiently fresh, full and rosy to bear the test of the dark, rich material unrelieved by dainty white.

There will certainly be a stronger at-tempt later to introduce brilliant fashions -the panier and the puff especially, in evening dresses. The beautiful, picturesque fashions of the time of Vandyke's portraits furnish a new motive for design. We have the same plain skirts, the same full puffed sleeves, and close bodice with its flat sweep of rich lace turned back from the throat and neck, seen in the portrait of the Queen of Charles It is not likely that any one style like this will be especially or minutely copied, for the tendency of all Parisian iressmakers is to modify and combine the

old designs. The use of the richest hand-made laces is predicted for the coming winter. They are no longer put on full, but are laid flat in smart, sweeping collars, and falling over the huge sleeves. Nearly all the new bod-ices, whether of silk or wool, are finished in some way with a fichu collet, wheel collet or some such trimming. The high, close stock collar is retained at the throat and the flat collar is added to it, and falls around the shoulders, sometimes close to the neck, back and front, and sometimes close to the neck at the back, but crossed in front in fichu-like form. The wheel collet is usually of chiffon or some soft, light material, and is arranged straight around the throat below the velvet or silk stock. The close cravat bow which has finished the soft stock collar at the back is retained, or it is replaced by full little wings of pleat, standing out like the wings of Mercury on each side. Sometimes full rosettes of velvet are used at the side of the stock collar, but these are not so graceful as the simple bow at the back.

Care of House Palms.

New York Evening Sun. The normal life of the house palm, either the graceful kantia or more sturdy lantania, is six or seven years of vigorous growth; but one woman who has kept her drawingroom bow window filled with the same green palms for fifteen years says their long, good life is only a matter of proper care. Her drawing-room, it is true, is lighted by electricity and heated with steam, an atmosphere far wholesomer for palms than gas and furnace. But, above all, she says, let the house mistress see to it that the palms are kept moist at the root and out of the cold air. Florists, in petting, fill the palm's jar with earth, all saving an inch or half inch at the top, and twice a week she fills her palm's pot to the very brim with clear water. That half inch of water every three days is a sufficiency. Once in every fortnight, with a flower sprayer, she cleans the leaves, that must drip dry. When the palms are housed for the winter, near the windows, where sunlight may reach them, her chief care is to provide against any sudden chilling. She never permits a draft to blow on her green friends, and except on the balmiest days the maids are never permitted to lift one window to dust until the palms are all moved to a sheltered point. When they droop in spite of this care, a florist's man will come for 50 cents, and if he finds the earth moist and soft and the drainage of the box good, he will look for worms. They are a palm's greatest enemies, but can be cut out without great detriment to the plant that, relieved, will flourish abundantly again. Clear water, an even, warm temperature and sunlight will suffice for the health of any house palm, that rarely gets any more lavish attention even in a Big Sleeves Will Stay.

New York Evening Post. There is not the least indication that the huge sleeves of current fashion will be renounced for seasons yet to come. Returned ever do to let Clarissa suspect my objections, so in my most careless manner I charity passes beyond my comprehension."

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French in our fashions, then the modiste is certainly safe in recommending to her patrons voluminous sleeves. The muttoneg, the draped chatelaine and the Queen Anne puffed shape are in constant use. The forearm portions remain close-fitting. but not tight, though they are snugger when the turn back gauntlet is added, this cuff appearing upon not a few of the new "dress" gowns. The puff above the elbow is cut in one piece, and is sometimes pleated, sometimes softly festooned, draped or shirred to the outside of the arm, directly through the center, the shirring delicately done, and so left, or it is covered with a rich galloon, insertion of silk passementerie, or other sort of trimming. Flounces falling above the full sleeve tops are still popular, also long Vandyke points and rounded or square Hungarian shoulder caps. On evening toilets are pretty sleeves showing a number of puffs placed horizon-tally or perpendicularly, as best suits the shape of the wearer's arm, and straps of velvet, satin ribbon, or pearled gimp are placed between each puff.

New Sofa Pillows.

Philadelphia Record. A comfortable big sofa pillow, worked by his sweetheart's fair fingers, will prove most acceptable to the comfort-loving young man. This may be made of grayishgreen denim embroidered in elaborate large fleurs de lis. The five flower-like figures are outlined with white linen floss, and a few irregular dash lines of stitching are run through the middle of each petal, the tips being worked with narrow black-waved braid. The centers of the figures and the scrolls between them are inlaid work of black rope silk. The cushion is finished by a wide frill of denim. Old rose denim, with applied designs of white hopsacking, the edges finished with heavy white cotton cord, is lovely for a lounge cushion. All the seams are to be joined with the heavy white cord, and, if desired, decorated with puffy little rosettes of the hopsacking. A craze for souvenir pillows has superseded that for souvenir spoons, and now it is the bachelors who are reaping the benefit. The gay society belle, at the end of the season, collects pieces of the materials from which her gowns have been made, and the favored one of her escorts receives a pillow made of all sorts of fabrics-ranging from gingham to brocaded satin-each meant to bring to mind the occasion upon which it formed part of the gown worn.

October Wedding Rules.

Ladies' Home Journal. The number of bridesmaids and ushers at a wedding is altogether optional. At any large jewelry shop pretty articles for bridesmaids' souvenirs may be found. Among them are bangles upon which the initials of the bride and groom may be combined in a monogram, lace pins, prayer-For the ushers scarf-pins, pocket stampboxes, cuff-buttons and pencils are in order. The bride usually presents her bridesmaids with their gloves, as does the groom his ushers. The groom furnishes the flowers for the bride and bridesmalds and the boutonnieres for the groomsman and ush-The eards of invitation should always be provided by the family of the

Dainty Tea Cloths.

New York Evening Post. Pretty tea-cloths or summer covers for baby carriages are made from small and dainty-embroidered handkerchiefs joined with lace insertion and bordered with lace. The insertions are run with colored ribbons, or the cover is laid over a lining of silesia, sateen or china silk. The lace used is either Torchon or a fine imitation of Valenciennes. A lovely tea-cloth, having much the same effect as the above, is large squares of linen, divided into numerous smaller squares by threads drawn each way across it, so that each square is bordered by drawn work. The squares are powdered with little flowers in Dresdenchina coloring, and the spread edged with a wide linen lace.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Was All There. Mamma-Where does that child get its temper? Not from me surely? Papa-No. None of yours is missing.

Cause and Effect. Chicago Tribune. "Doctor, I am troubled with shooting

pains in my face." "Yes, madam. You use too much pow-Rather an Old Game.

Dr. Springer-No. I do not believe in card playing or gambling in any way.

Bill Young-I don't see why not. Didn't Moses play Pharoah? The Rivals. Good News. Little Miss Mugg-Doctor De Fashion is often at our house, but I never see him

Little Miss Freckles-We don't owe him anything. Remedies Not Wanted. Good News. Bobby-There's a man down at the corner sellin' something to cure every sort of ache or pain. Let's tell mamma about it.

Johnny-No, don't. She'll be stoppin' our school headaches with it Money in Fatness. New York Weekly.

Thin Waiter-I wouldn't be so fat as you fer a good deal. Fat Waiter-Dat's all you knows. Dis fat is wuth money. Young ladies pays me fer standin' in front of 'em w'en dey eats co'n from de cob.

Bobby's Bent.

Good News. Nurse-Please, ma'am, every time little Bobby can't have his own way he runs at me and pushes me and kicks me like everyond Mother-Bless his little heart. He'll be a famous football player some

A Friendly Tip.

New York Weekly. Married Man-Not married yet? Old Chum-No, I'm not. Married Man-Now, see here, old boy, times are changing mighty fast. You take my advice and marry, before women get any more emancipated than they are al-

Catering to Their Taste. Mose Woolverton-Fo' de Lawd's sake! Randolph, what yo' got dat Limburger Randolph Lipsner-What I got dat fo'? Why, I'se fishin' fo' dem German carp. I is; an' I knows what catches de Dutch ebery time.

Better Than Music.

Puck. Romantic Miss-Have there not been moments in your experience when life seemed full of unsatisfied wants? Mr. Hardhead—Y-e-s; that's so.
"At such times I always fly to music for relief. What do you do, Mr. Hardhead?"

"I advertise." Anxious to Help.

New York Weekly. He (after the honeymoon)-Has your father said anything about helping to provide a home for us? She-Oh, yes, indeed. He said that when we had a home of our own he would buy me a cook book and allow mother to come and teach me how to use it, even if it took

The Old Man's Advice. New York Weekly. He-If you don't intend to break your engagement with me why do you allow young Richman to make you such valuable

She-My father advised me to accept them. "He did? Why?" "He said that if I married you they might come handy on rent days." An Unpleasant Revelation.

Good News. Mother (seeing a juvenile squabble)-Stop! If you hurt that little girl I will punish

Small Son-She hit me first. Mother-No matter. Little boys have no right to strike little girls. Small Son-Boo, hoo! I didn't know they was allowed to begin bossin' so young as that.

An Anecdote of Shelley.

The poet Shelley tells an amusing story of the influence that language "hard to be

understood" exercises on the vulgar mind. Walking near Covent Garden, London, he accidentally jostled against an Irish navvy, who, being in a quarrelsome mood, seemed inclined to attack the poet. A crowd of ragged sympathizers began to gather, when Shelley, calmly facing them, deliberately pronounced: "I have put my hand into the hamper, I have looked on the sacred barley, I have eaten out of the drum. I have drunk and am well pleased. I have said 'Knox Ompax,' and it is finished." The effect was magical. The astonished Irishman fell back; his friends began to question him: "What barley?" "Where's the hamper?" "What have you seen drinking?" and ShelOFFERINGS OF THE POETS.

In Autumn Time. As up the vale we walked that autumn day A little stream poured down its liquid

We traced its changing course through all the throng Of ferns and rushes bending o'er its way To where a spring beneath a willow gray

Makes May around when Winter's hand is And, resting till the willow's shade was

Upon a near, green-covered mound we lay. The fragrant immortelle and golden-rod Showered blossomed splendor stored by

Summer's care; Meek asters chose in shadowed nooks to

And, star-like, shed a purple lustre there. Woods, hills, seemed sleeping like the vales among.

While over all the soft, white hazes hung.

-Renos H. Richards. Spencer, Ind. The Children.

Only to keep them so. Soft, warm and young; The wee, feeble fingers, The babbling tongue: Tears that we kiss away. Smiles that we win; Careless of knowledge As guiltless of sin.

Only to keep them so,

Frank, true and pure; . Of our full wisdom So lovingly sure, Our frown all they shrink from Our flat their law; Our store whence all gladness They fearlessly draw. Only to keep them so. Sweet hands that cling,

Sweet lips that laugh for us. Sweet tones that ring: Curls that we train to wave. Feet that we guide, Each fresh step a wonder, Each new word a pride.

Only to keep them so, Women and men Are the tinles that circled us Lovingly then. Gentle and good to us, Patient and strong Guarding our weaknesses. Bearing us long. Tenderly mocking us,

Old thoughts and ways,

That scarcely keep measure With life's rapid days. Good to us-waiting. Our sunset shows fair! But, only to have them so. Just as they were! -All the Year Round. The Minuet. O ancient days, when graceful plays Of motion marked the minuet.

Which, like an aquarelle in grays. Once seen, one never may forget. It speaks, the culture of the courts. The quaint reserve which breeding lent, When men's stout hearts and women's arts, In forming their quaint scenes were blent. The jigs and reels, where sturdy heels Beat time to music's noisy fret, To nether worlds belong, one feels, Viewed from the maze of minuet:

What dignity, what fawn-like grace! So weird the ghostly music seems. From tinkling lute and breathing flute Thoughts revel in the land of dreams. The modern waltz, with all its faults, Though poets of its charms have sung In sensuous verse, forever halts Before this dance of the race when young. All hall to the dance of courtesy! Reserve in every move is seen,

-Arkansas Traveler. Faded Leaves. The hills are bright with maples yet, But down the level land The beech leaves rustle in the wind

And smiles are bland, the while each hand

Seems proffered by a king or queen.

As dry and brown as sand. The clouds in bars of rusty red Along the hilltops glow, And in the still, sharp air, the frost Is like a dream of snow.

The berries of the brier-rose Have jost their rounded pride; The bitter-sweet chrysanthemums Are drooping heavy-eyed.

The cricket grows more friendly, The cormouse sly and wise, Hiding away in the disgrace Of nature, from men's eyes.

The pigeons in black, wavering lines Are swinging toward the sun: And all the wide and withered fields Proclaim the summer done. -Alice Cary.

The Happiest Heart. Who drives the horses of the sun Shall lord it but a day; Better the lowly deed were done,

And kept the humble way. The rust will find the sword of fame; The dust will hide the crown; Ave, none shall nail so high his name Time will not tear it down.

The happiest heart that ever beat Was in some quiet breast That found the common daylight sweet And left to heaven the rest. -John Vance Cheney, in Harper's Maga-

Sorrow. The youthful heart in its first sorrow cries 'None suffer as I suffer! None can know Such misery and live!" and grief's surprise Enhances thus its woe.

The heart grown old, whom sorrow leads From paths of happiness to know her Submissive breathes, "Yes, men have lived and died By myriads in this place!" And feels, with added pang, that grief as

Is, and has been.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

-Lilla Cabot Perry.

The tongue of woman is smaller than that Of the 692 strikes in England in 1892 over half were settled by conciliatory methods. In Russia you must marry before eighty or not at all, and you may marry only five times. The only city officers in England who are

elected directly by the people are coun-Europe can raise an army of 9,366,000 men, the daily expense of which would be In 1346, during the prevalence of the black death, 30,000 towns and villages in Europe were totally depopulated. People should never buy boots or shoes early in the day. The feet are at their

maximum size late in the day. Under normal circumstances a man throws off two pounds every day in sensible and insensible perspiration. Greece stands lowest in point of wealth of all the countries of Europe, the estimate being fixed at \$1,055,000,000.

The Zuyder Zee is to be drained at an expense of \$106,000,000, 72,782 acres of ground valued at \$130,000,000 being reclaimed Corner lots on Fleet street, Picadilly, and other desirable business locations in London are worth \$100,000 a front foot. To prevent lamp chimneys from cracking out them into a kettle of cold water, grad-

nally heat it till it boils and then let it as The tallest man of whom there is auhenticated measurements was Funnam, of Scotland, who was eleven feet and six nches in height.

The Tyrian dyers were the most expert in the world. The fabrics dyed by them did not assume fast colors until after two days' exposure to the light and air. Alum in bread may be detected by heating a knife blade and thrusting it into the loaf: its presence will be shown by small specks on the blade and a faint peculiar

There has not been a total eclipse of the sun in London since 1715, and Professor Holden says there will not be another until after the opening of the twenty-first The egg product of the United States is much more valuable than is generally supposed. It amounts to \$100,000,000 per annum, about one-third the value of the

wheat crop. Among hive bees the duty of providing for the wants of the future breed devolves solely on the mother, since the male is an equally idle member of society as the

An English scientist accounts for the absence of trees from prairies from the fact that these regions have never been over-flown. He says water is the only natural agency for sowing the seed of trees. The oldest emblem of royalty in exist-ence is the Iron Crown of the Lombards. The inner strip of iron, according to tra-



used at the crucifixion. Its most distinguished wearers have been Charlemagne, Charles V and Napoleon

On rainy days in China, when a lady comes to a muddy place, she beckons to a boy, who will, if he is in the business, drop down in front of her, making a stepping stone on which the lady reaches dry land

There are doors in some old houses in Holland which were, in former days, never used except for weddings and funerals. After the bride and groom had passed the door was nailed up to await the next oc-

Here is a new lottery scheme adopted by a London restaurant: A small casket contains a five-pound note. Each customer is given a key, but only one of the whole lot will unlock the casket. This man who has the key that fits gets the prize. The grave of Eve is visited by over 40,000 pilgrims each year. It is to be seen at Jed-

Eve was the tallest woman who ever lived. THE BICYCLE RAILROAD.

dah, in a cemetery outside the city walls.

The tomb is fifty cubits long and twelve wide. The Arabs entertain a belief that

## An Experiment Which May Result in Revolutionizing Transportation.

Albert Lee, in Harper's Young People. Not far from Patchogue, Long island, at a little village called Bellport, there is a peculiar structure, a mile and a half long, that looks like a trolley railroad, but is not. Occasionally something black will swish along past the upright poles and be out of sight before you can see just what it is, and if you ask a native about it ha will tell you that that is the new bicycle railroad. It is only an experiment now, but the promoters of the enterprise assert that within a year they will have their bicycle trains running from one end of

the island to the other. At first thought it seems almost impossible that a railroad train can be constructed to run on one rail, just as a bicycle runs along a road, or that after it has once started it should be able to travel twice as fast as an express train running on a two-rail track. Yet in practice these conditions have been absolutely fulfilled; the bicycle rairoad has been running on its short spur for several months, and any one who cares to may go down to Bellport any day and see how it feels to cover a mile and a half in less than ninety

The theory that this new kind of road was built on is very simple. As the name implies, it is nothing more than a bicycle capable of carrying forty or fifty persons, instead of one or two. These big bicycles are then placed inside of a structure so built that it will hold them, and hold them so securely that no matter what happens the passengers can in no way be injured or thrown out. This structure consists of a single steel track running along the side of a line of upright beams which support an overhead guide that serves to steady the cars, and through which the electric current is carried to the motor-for the cars are propelled, heated and lighted by electricity. Every car has two wheels, one at each end, and in the motor cars the propeiling machinery is placed just above the wheel. An invention has recently been made, however, by means of which the propelling motor will be located inside the

wheel, and will be capable of attaining a speed of one hundred miles an hour, As the cars are firmly held between the upper and lower rails, no matter how fast the bicycle train goes, it is impossible for it to run off the track-just the same as it is impossible for a bullet to get out of a gun barrel until it reaches the muzzle. There might be danger from collisions, but this has been foreseen, and the road, when it is built, will be divided into sections. When a train is in one section it will automatically cut off the electric current from the section it has just left, so that there will be thus no power there to propel any other train. That section will therefore be "blocked," and such an arrangement in railroading is called the "block system." There is the possibility, however, of a wheel breaking; but even such an accident would not be serious, because the cars would only settle down one inch into a "shoe" arranged for that purpose, and slide along the track until they stopped easily from their own friction. They could not possibly settle

lose their hold of the guide beam over-We have all noticed what inconvenient and sometimes dangerous things are the overhead wires of the trolley street cars. The cars go along reasonably fast, but they frequently slip the trolley wheel, and always have to slow up at curves. On the bicycle railroad the conducting rail overhead is covered with wood on all sides, except that which faces downward, and along which runs the "shoes" that convey the electric power to the motor inside the car. There are several of these "shoes" on the top of each car, so that no matter how fast the train is going, even around curves at full speed, one at least of them will remain in contact with the upper rail, and there will be no loss of power. The cars in operation are almost noise less. Each one weighs, with wheels, motor

and trucks, only six tons. The motor cars can seat thirty-six people, and the passen-ger coaches will hold sixty-six persons. The weight of fast railroad trains, such as the "Exposition flyer," which ran between New York and Chicago at the time of the world's fair, or the "Empire State express," which runs daily between New York and Albany, is two hundred tons, with seating capacity for not over 200 people. This makes an average weight of one ton, or 2,000 pounds, for each passenger. It is asserted that a train of bicycle cars can be formed consisting of two motor cars and three passenger coaches, with a seating capacity of two hundred persons, and weigh only two hundred pounds per passenger. This calculation would make a bicycle train carrying the same number of passengers as an express train only one-

tenth as heavy. Some of the further advantages which the promoters claim for their system, and which certainly look favorable on paper, are these: there will be no locomotives. with repair shops, with machinery and tools, to maintain; no great terminal facilities to provide; no ties to renew; no conductors, engineers or firemen, for the mo-tormen will have full charge of trains; no water supply to pay for; no fences to build and maintain, for the road as it is proposed to build it on Long island will be elevated; no damage to cattle; no flagmen at crossings; no coal stoves; no steam heating; no snow to plough through; and no clouds of dust to blind and inconveni-

ence the passengers.

It would really seem from all this that quite a revolution is coming in modern methods of railroad traveling. But it remains to be seen whether the blcycle method can be successfully operated for long

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